(d) 20,526 growers from Andhra Pradesh will be covered under the Price Stabilization Fund Scheme.

Export of services

4507. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in 2001, the services export was about one-fifth of external trade;

(b) whether it is also a fact that export of services is now 31.4 per cent of our total exports and only six countries in the world have the services export higher than us;

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to gear up the export of more services than goods; and

(d) which of the Indian services are being recognized to be brought up to the world standards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI) : (a) As per the World Trade Organisation (WTO) press release of 2001, India's exports in Commercial Services was 14.54% of external trade.

(b) As per the latest WTO press release of 2002, India's export of services is 29.27% of total exports and India ranks 21st amongst the leading exporters of commercial services in the world.

(c) Under the Exim Policy, the Government has formulated a scheme wherein Service Providers have been allowed duty free credit entitlement for import of spares, office equipment and furniture, professional equipment and consumables, except the agriculture and dairy products. The entitlement would be equivalent to 10% of the average foreign exchange earned by them in the preceding three licensing years excepting for the Service Providers in the Tourism Sector. The entitlement in the case of hotels of the category of three star and above and those related to the Tourism Sector, registered with the Department of Tourism, would be 5% of the average foreign exchange earned by them in the preceding three licensing years. The scheme will cover only those Service Providers who have an average foreign exchange earning of over Rs. 10 lakhs in the preceding three licensing years.

(d) Government of India would provide necessary impetus for export of services from India, which have competitive advantage in the service sector on

account of having qualified manpower. Certain critical areas that have been defined under the service sector are Health Services, Tourism and Entertainment Industry.

Free Trade in BIMST-EC

4508. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made with regard to the proposed free trade in BIMST-EC (Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand-Economic Co-operation); and

(b) the outcome of the 4th meeting of the BIMST-EC Ministerial meeting held in the first week of March, 2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI) : (a) At the Third BIMST-EC (Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand- Economic Co-operation) Trade/Economic Ministers' Meeting held on 15th February, 2001 in Yangon. Myanmar, the Ministers stressed the importance of a time-bound work programme for establishing Free Trade Area and agreed to set up a Group of Experts (GoE) to study in greater detail the pros and cons of the two approaches namely, the positive list approach and the negative list approach towards a Free Trade arrangement in BIMST-EC. The first meeting of the GoE was held on 17-18 January, 2002 and the second meeting on 24-25 June, 2002 in New Delhi. In the second meeting of the GoE, all the member countries agreed that the negative list approach is preferable while moving towards a free trade area in the BIMST-EC region.

(b) During the Fourth BIMST-EC Trade/Economic Ministers meeting held in Colombo on 7th March, 2003, it has been decided that a Group of Experts chaired by Sri Lanka be set up to draft a Framework Agreement for a Free Trade Area in the BIMST-EC region bearing in mind that the first BIMST-EC Summit is to be held in Thailand in 2004.

Export of Homoeopathy, Ayurvedic and Unani Medicines

4509. PROF. MM AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the value of Homoeopathy, Ayurvedic, Unani etc. medicines exported during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the details of the value of such medicines proposed to be exported during the Tenth Five Year Plan?